



February 11, 2010

**Statement
Of
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
On
SB 15 An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Copayments**

Good afternoon, Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Christine Cappiello and I am the Director of Government Relations for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut. I am here today to speak against SB 15 An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Copayments.

If passed, this legislation would hamstring a crucial instrument in keeping medical premiums in check. If co-pays are the same regardless of how they are obtained (i.e. mail order vs. pharmacy) a PBMs ability to drive quality and keep out-of-pocket costs low could harm members by reducing quality and increasing the cost of providing a prescription drug benefit, making coverage unaffordable for many employers and consumers. This is particularly true for people who are on maintenance drugs and take advantage of the mail order services if the co-pay is comparable or less expensive than retail pharmacies. Without PBMs, retail pharmacies would and do charge patients higher prices for prescription drug coverage – for thousands of Americans who currently have coverage.

Thank for the opportunity to speak to you about this legislation and welcome any questions you might have.